

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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R 280740Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2078

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 6463

S T A D I S//////////

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR

SUBJ: CINCPAC REPRESENTATION

REF: STATE 231210

1. CURRENT CINCPACREP AUSTRALIA IS COLONEL JACK L. DE TOUR, ASSIGNED TO CANBERRA WITH OFFICES IN CHANCERY BUILDING. DETOUR HAS NO STAFF AS CINCPACREP, ALTHOUGH IN HIS PRIMARY FUNCTION AS CO OF USAF LIAISON OFFICE AUSTRALIA (USAFLO) HE IS SUPPORTED BY THREE AIR FORCE OFFICERS, SEVEN ENLISTED MEN, AND TWO SECRETARIES.

2. USAFLO WAS ESTABLISHED IN FEBRUARY 1964 TO ARRANGE SALE OF B-47'S AND SUBSEQUENTLY F-111 AIRCRAFT TO AUSTRALIA. THIS PROGRAM IS NOW TERMINATED AND SUCH RESPONSIBILITIES HAVE DEVELOPED UPON SEPARATE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES OFFICE. OVER THE YEARS USAFLO HAS ACCUMULATED OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES. USAFLO MAINTAINS A
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T-29 AIRCRAFT WHICH IS OF MAJOR SUPPORT TO AMBASSADOR.

USAFLO ALSO ADMINISTERS AIR FORCE OFFICER EXCHANGE PROGRAM, AND THAT PORTION OF SOFA INVOLVING CLEARANCES OF MILITARY PERSONNEL, TRAVEL AND SHIPMENT OF EFFECTS. USAFLO PROVIDES LEGAL ADVICE TXA DOD PERSONNEL AND FAMILIES, ADMINISTERS APO MAIL SYSTEM, AND GENERALLY ASSISTS IN LOOKING AFTER USAF INTERESTS IN AUSTRALIA.

3. SHORTLY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN 1964, USAFLO COMMANDING OFFICER WAS DESIGNATED CINCPACREP AND SENIOR SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (SSMR). IN THIS CAPACITY HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATING ACTIONS OF CONCERN TO TWO OR MORE PACOM SERVICE COMPONENTS, AND PROVIDES LIAISON BETWEEN US MILITARY FACILITIES IN AUSTRALIA AND EMBASSY. HE ALSO FULFILLS CERTAIN INTELLIGENCE FUNCTIONS AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES AS DIRECTED BY CINCPAC.

4. SOME USAFLO/CINCPACREP RESPONSIBILITIES OVERLAP WITH THOSE OF OTHER MILITARY UNITS IN AUSTRALIA. ORGANIZATION OF US DEFENSE DEPARTMENT COMPONENTS IN AUSTRALIA IS NOW UNDER REVIEW AND EMBASSY EXPECTS CERTAIN ECONOMIES AND IMPROVED MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE CAN BE DEVELOPED.

5. USAFLO/CINCPACREP IS RESPONSIBLE UNDER ONE HAT TO SEC AIR FORCE AND UNDER OTHER TO CINCPAC, AND MAINTAINS PRIVATE COMMUNICATIONS CHANNELS TO EACH. HIS PERFORMANCE IS EVALUATED BY THESE OFFICES RESPECTIVELY. OVER THE YEARS THE RELATIONSHIP OF CINCPACREP TO AMBASSADOR AND US MISSION HAS VARIED DEPENDING UPON PERSONALITIES INVOLVED. PRESENT CINCPACREP DETOUR IS THOROUGHLY COOPERATIVE AND LOYAL MEMBER OF AMBASSADOR'S STAFF, BEHAVES AS FULL PARTICIPANT IN COUNTRY TEAM, AND CONSULTS WITH DCM PRIOR TO TRANSMISSION OF SUBSTANTIVE OR POLICY COMMUNICATIONS THROUGH HIS CHANNELS. HE HAS SOLID WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH DAO, WHICH WAS NOTABLY NOT THE CASE WITH FORMER CINCPACREP.

6. WHILE MOST OF FUNCTIONS PERFORMED BY USAFLO/CINCPACREP ARE USEFUL AND NECESSARY, PRESENT ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE IS NOT NECESSARILY THE MOST DESIRABLE AND REVIEW NOW
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UNDERWAY MAY PROPOSE CHANGES. COOPERATION AND COORDINATION ARE EXCELLENT AT PRESENT TIME. PROBLEMS ARE POTENTIAL, NOT ACTUAL. ARRANGEMENTS UNDER WHICH LARGE SECTION OF MISSION IS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO DISTANT MILITARY COMMANDS RATHER THAN TO AMBASSADOR PROVIDES SEEDS OF DIFFICULTY SHOULD RELATIVELY WEAK AMBASSADOR OR INDEPENDENT AND STUBBORN CINCPACREP COINCIDE IN CANBERRA. UNDERSTAND THERE HAVE OCCASIONALLY

IN PAST BEEN PROBLEMS OF INADEQUATE COORDINATION
AND CO HULTATION, BUT RELATIONSHIP IS NOW CONSTRUCTIVE
AND POSITIVE.
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